



Physical Information **TALKS EVENT**

Saturday, April 22

1:00pm – 6:15pm

Bloomberg SPACE is delighted to welcome you to today's event. As part of the current exhibition programme *Physical Information*, this event is concerned with re-imagining the possibilities of material encounters in a world that is becoming increasingly abstract. Three keynote speakers and two artist interventions will explore material culture from the perspectives of art history, anthropology and fiction.

AGENDA

- 1:00pm - Arrival and handout of printed artwork by Karin Ruggaber
- 1:20pm - Welcome from Rupert Norfolk, co-curator of *Physical Information*
- 1:35pm - Keynote from Alex Potts, art historian
- 2:20pm - Keynote from Haidy Geismar, anthropologist
- 3:05pm - Questions
- 3:25pm - Short break
- 3:40pm - Animation by artist, David Musgrave
- 4:00pm - Reading by Tom McCarthy, novelist
- 4:45pm - General discussion with all contributors
- 5:15pm - Drinks reception in the Bloomberg SPACE Gallery
- 6:15pm - Event close

Physical Information

Physical Information is a programme of five exhibitions at Bloomberg SPACE, co-curated by Henry Coleman and Rupert Norfolk, exploring how physical objects can generate alternative experiences in an increasingly abstract world. Three solo commissions and two curated shows investigate the potential of sculpture to activate public imagination and orientate social space, engaging the individual viewer physically and psychologically.

About Bloomberg

Bloomberg, the global business and financial information and news leader, gives influential decision makers a critical edge by connecting them to a dynamic network of information, people and ideas. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his corporate, foundation and personal giving. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation and Public Health. The Bloomberg SPACE commissioning programme reflects Bloomberg's philanthropic passion to support exciting talent and to commission new works. Since 2002, Bloomberg SPACE has worked with more than 470 artists and has commissioned over 130 new works. For more information, visit:

bloombergspace.com

bloomberg.org

bloomberg.com

About the contributors

Haidy Geismar is an anthropologist teaching at UCL where she is also curator of the UCL Ethnography Collections. Her research focuses on museums and collections, especially in the South Pacific countries of Vanuatu and New Zealand. Recently she has been researching the digitization of cultural collections, the incorporation of indigenous protocols into museum databases, and the interpenetration of contemporary art and ethnographic collections. She is in the early stages of a book looking at new practices and forms of digital photography. Recent publications include *Treasured Possessions: Indigenous Interventions into Cultural and Intellectual Property* (2013), and *Moving Images* (2010). Geismar is also founder and chief editor of the *Material World* blog as Chair of the Royal Anthropological Institute Photography Committee recently founded a new open access journal, *Anthropology and Photography*.

Tom McCarthy is a novelist. In 2013 he was awarded the inaugural Windham Campbell Prize for Fiction by Yale University. His collection *Typewriters, Bombs, Jellyfish* (to be published by NYRB this June) gathers essays that have appeared over the last decade in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The London Review of Books*, *Harper's* and *Artforum*, with themes ranging from Franz Kafka and James Joyce to David Lynch and Sonic Youth. His first novel, *Remainder*, won the 2008 Believer Book Award and was recently adapted for the cinema. His third, *C*, was shortlisted for the 2010 Booker Prize, as was his fourth, *Satin Island*, in 2015. McCarthy is also author of the 2006 non-fiction book *Tintin and The Secret of Literature*.

David Musgrave is an artist who gives the abstractions of experience concrete form. His drawn and sculpted figures are palpably suspended in their materials and structures, while his novel *Unit*, narrated by an artificial being, is a sustained reflection on the layered codes that make fiction and language work. Musgrave has exhibited widely in venues that include Kunstverein Freiburg; Tate, London; CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux; and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. He will take part in the forthcoming show *Space Force Construction*, which places contemporary artists in dialogue with Constructivist works, at the V-A-C Foundation, Venice.

Alex Potts is Max Loehr Collegiate Professor at University of Michigan. His work on art and artistic theory covers a number of areas including sculptural aesthetics and the history of sculpture. In addition to the book *The Sculptural Imagination: Figurative, Modernist, Minimalist* (2000), his work on sculpture includes a co-edited anthology of texts on modern sculpture, *The Modern Sculpture Reader* (2007; reissued 2012), and articles on David Smith, Alberto Giacometti and other twentieth-century sculptors. Recent publications include the book *Experiments in Modern Realism: World Making, Politics and the Everyday in Postwar European and American Art* (2013).

Karin Ruggaber is an artist who makes sculpture as well as producing artist's books. Her work centres on ideas around figuration, ornamentation, aspects of touch and the relationship to architectural scale. Her books are material investigations of a sensory experience with architecture and public space. She is interested in the translation of pictorial principles into sculpture and in the ground as an arena for material thinking, composition and making. Her work has been exhibited at: PEER, London; Tate Britain; MUDAM, Luxembourg, Museo Marino Marini, Florence, Artists Space, New York; Nottingham Contemporary; Hayward Gallery, London. Ruggaber exhibited alongside Rene Daniels at Bloomberg SPACE in 2002.